

List of lunar deities

In mythology, a **lunar deity** is a god or goddess of the Moon, sometimes as a personification. These deities can have a variety of functions and traditions depending upon the culture, but they are often related. Some form of moon worship can be found in most ancient religions.

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Moon in religion and mythology

Many cultures have implicitly linked the 29.5-day lunar cycle to women's menstrual cycles, as evident in the shared linguistic roots of "menstruation" and "moon" words in multiple language families.^[1] This identification was not universal, as demonstrated by the fact that not all moon deities are female. Still, many well-known mythologies feature moon goddesses, including the Greek goddess Selene, the Roman goddess Luna, and the Chinese goddess Chang'e. Several goddesses including Artemis, Hecate, and Isis did not originally have lunar aspects, and only acquired them late in antiquity due to syncretism with the de facto Greco-Roman lunar deity Selene/Luna.^{[2][3]} In traditions with male gods, there is little evidence of such syncretism, though the Greek Hermes has been equated with the male Egyptian lunar god Thoth. Nyx is the goddess of night.


Male lunar gods are also common, such as Sin of the Mesopotamians, Mani of the Germanic tribes, Tsukuyomi of the Japanese, Igaluk/Alignak of the Inuit, and the Hindu god Chandra. The original Proto-Indo-European lunar deity appears to have been male, with many possible derivatives including the Homeric figure of Menelaus. Cultures with male moon gods often feature sun goddesses. An exception is Hinduism, featuring both male and female aspects of the solar divine. The ancient Egyptians had several moon gods including Khonsu and Thoth, although Thoth is a considerably more complex deity.^[4] Set represented the moon in the Egyptian Calendar of Lucky and Unlucky Days.^[5]

Many cultures are oriented chronologically by the Moon, as opposed to the Sun. The Hindu calendar maintains the integrity of the lunar month and the moon god Chandra has religious significance during many Hindu festivals (e.g. Karwa Chauth, Sankashti Chaturthi, and during eclipses).^[6] The ancient Germanic tribes were also known to have a lunar calendar.

The Moon features prominently in art and literature, often with a purported influence in human affairs.






List of moon deities

African

Name	Image	Mythology / Religion	Details
<u>Abuk</u>		<u>Dinka</u>	Goddess of fertility, morality, creativity and love
<u>Amesemi</u>		<u>Kushite</u>	Protective goddess and wife of Apedemak, the lion-god. She was represented with a crown shaped as a falcon, or with a crescent moon on her head on top of which a falcon was standing.
<u>Gleti</u>		<u>Dahomean</u>	
<u>Mawu</u>		<u>Dahomean</u>	
<u>Iah</u>		<u>Egyptian</u>	
<u>iNyanga</u>		<u>Zulu</u>	Goddess of the Moon
<u>Khonsu</u>		<u>Egyptian</u>	The god of the moon. A story tells that Ra (the sun God) had forbidden Nut (the Sky goddess) to give birth on any of the 360 days of the calendar. In order to help her give birth to her children, Thoth (the god of wisdom) played against Khonsu in a game of senet. Khonsu lost to Thoth and then he gave away enough moonlight to create 5 additional days so Nut could give birth to her five children. It was said that before losing, the moonlight was on par with the sunlight. Sometimes, Khonsu is depicted as a hawk-headed god, however he is mostly depicted as a young man with a side-lock of hair, like a young Egyptian. He was also a god of time. The centre of his cult was at Thebes which was where he took place in a triad with Amun and Mut. Khonsu was also heavily associated Thoth who also took part in the measurement of time and the moon.
<u>Thoth</u>		<u>Egyptian</u>	God of wisdom, the arts, science, and judgment
<u>Ela-Opitan</u>		<u>Yoruba</u>	

Europe

Name	Image	Mythology / Religion	Details
<u>Arianrhod</u>		<u>Welsh</u>	
<u>Artemis</u>		<u>Greek</u>	Artemis is the ancient Greek goddess of the hunt, wilderness, wild animals, chastity, and the Moon. ^{[7][8]} She is the daughter of Zeus and Leto and the twin sister of Apollo. ^[9] She would eventually be extensively syncretized with the Roman goddess Diana. Cynthia was originally an epithet of the Greek goddess Artemis, who according to legend was born on Mount Cynthus. Selene, the Greek personification of the Moon, and the Roman Diana were also sometimes called "Cynthia". ^[10]
<u>Artume</u>		<u>Etruscan</u>	
<u>Ataegina</u>		<u>Lusitanian</u>	
<u>Bendis</u>		<u>Thracian</u>	
<u>Diana</u>		<u>Roman</u>	Diana is a goddess in Roman and Hellenistic religion, primarily considered a patroness of the countryside, hunters, crossroads, and the Moon. She is equated with the Greek goddess Artemis (see above), and absorbed much of Artemis' mythology early in Roman history, including a birth on the island of Delos to parents Jupiter and Latona, and a twin brother, Apollo, ^[11] though she had an independent origin in Italy.
<u>Elatha</u>		<u>Irish</u>	Elatha was a king of the Fomorians in Irish mythology. He succeeded his father Delbáeth and was replaced by his son Bres, mothered by Ériu.
<u>Hecate</u>		<u>Greek</u>	While associated with the Moon, Hecate is not actually considered a goddess of the moon.

			
<u>Hors</u>		<u>Slavic</u>	
<u>Hjúki and Bil</u>		<u>Norse</u>	
<u>Ilargi</u>		<u>Basque</u>	
<u>Kuu</u>		<u>Finnish</u>	
<u>Losna</u>		<u>Etruscan</u>	
<u>Luna</u>		<u>Roman</u>	
<u>Mano</u>		<u>Sámi</u>	
<u>Máni</u>		<u>Norse</u>	Máni is the personification of the Moon in Norse mythology. Máni, personified, is attested in the <i>Poetic Edda</i> , compiled in the 13th century from earlier traditional sources, and the <i>Prose Edda</i> , written in the 13th century by Snorri Sturluson. Both sources state that he is the brother of the personified sun, <u>Sól</u> , and the son of <u>Mundilfari</u> , while the <i>Prose Edda</i> adds that he is followed by the children <u>Hjúki and Bil</u> through the heavens.
<u>Meness</u>		<u>Latvian</u>	
<u>Phoebe</u>		<u>Greek</u>	
<u>Selene</u>		<u>Greek</u>	
<u>Triple Goddess</u>		<u>Wicca</u>	

Asia

Ainu mythology

- God Kunnechup Kamui

Anatolian

- God Kaskuh (Hittite mythology)
- God Men (Phrygian mythology)

Chinese mythology

- Jie Lin, God that carries the Moon across the night sky ^[12]
- Chang Xi Mother of twelve moons corresponding to the twelve months of the year
- Chang'e Immortal that lives on the Moon
- Tai yin xing jun (太陰星君 Tàiyīn xīng jūn) of Investiture of the Gods in taoism and Chinese folk religion^{[13][14]}
- Tu'er Ye Rabbit god that lives on the Moon
- Wu Gang Immortal that lives on the Moon

Elamite

- God Napir

Hinduism

- God Chandra or Soma, The moon god

Hurro-Urartian

- God Kušuh (Hurrian mythology)
- Goddess Selardi (Urartian mythology)

Indonesian mythology

- Goddess Ratih
- Goddess Silewe Nazarate

Japanese mythology

- God Tsukuyomi

Korean mythology

- Goddess Myeongwol^[15]

Mari mythology

- God Tölze

Philippine mythologies



The Hindu moon god Chandra, riding his celestial chariot

- Kabigat (Bontok mythology): the goddess of the moon who cut off the head of Chal-chal's son; her action is the origin of headhunting^[16]
- Bulan (Ifugao mythology): the moon deity of the night in charge of nighttime^[17]
- Moon Deity (Ibaloi mythology): the deity who teased Kabunian for not yet having a spouse^[18]
- Delan (Bugkalot mythology): deity of the moon, worshiped with the sun and stars; congenial with Elag; during quarrels, Elag sometimes covers Delan's face, causing the different phases of the moon; giver of light and growth^[19]
- Bulan (Ilocano mythology): the moon god of peace who comforted the grieving Abra^[20]
- Bulan (Pangasinense mythology): the merry and mischievous moon god, whose dim palace was the source of the perpetual light which became the stars; guides the ways of thieves^[21]
- Wife of Mangetchay (Kapampangan mythology): wife of Mangetchay who gave birth to their daughter whose beauty sparked the great war; lives in the Moon^[22]
- Mayari (Kapampangan mythology): the moon goddess who battled her brother, Apolaqui^[23]
- Apûng Malyari (Kapampangan mythology): moon god who lives in Mount Pinatubo and ruler of the eight rivers^[24]
- Mayari (Tagalog mythology): goddess of the moon;^[25] sometimes identified as having one eye;^[26] ruler of the world during nighttime and daughter of Bathala^[27]
- Dalagang nasa Buwan (Tagalog mythology): the maiden of the moon^[28]
- Dalagang Binubukot (Tagalog mythology): the cloistered maiden in the moon^[29]
- Unnamed Moon God (Tagalog mythology): the night watchman who tattled on Rajo's theft, leading to an eclipse^[30]
- Bulan-hari (Tagalog mythology): one of the deities sent by Bathala to aid the people of Pinak; can command rain to fall; married to Bitu-in^[31]
- Bulan (Bicolano mythology): son of Dagat and Paros; joined Daga's rebellion and died; his body became the Moon;^[32] in another myth, he was alive and from his cut arm, the earth was established, and from his tears, the rivers and seas were established^[33]
- Haliya (Bicolano mythology): the goddess of the moon^[34]
- Libulan (Bisaya mythology): the copper-bodied son of Lidagat and Lihangin; killed by Kaptan's rage during the great revolt; his body became the moon^[35]
- Bulan (Bisaya mythology): the moon deity who gives light to sinners and guides them in the night^[36]
- Launsina (Capiznon mythology): the goddess of the Sun, Moon, stars, and seas, and the most beloved because people seek forgiveness from her^[37]
- Diwata na Magbabaya (Bukidnon mythology): simply referred as Magbabaya; the good supreme deity and supreme planner who looks like a man; created the Earth and the first eight elements, namely bronze, gold, coins, rock, clouds, rain, iron, and water; using the elements, he also created the sea, sky, Moon, and stars; also known as the pure god who wills all things; one of three deities living in the realm called Banting^[38]
- Bulon La Mogoaw (T'boli mythology): one of the two supreme deities; married to Kadaw La Sambad; lives in the seventh layer of the universe^[39]
- Moon Deity (Maranao mythology): divine being depicted in an anthropomorphic form as a beautiful young woman; angels serve as her charioteers^[40]

Semitic mythology

- God Aglibol (Palmarene mythology)

- God Baal-hamon (Punic religion)
- God Sin (Mesopotamian mythology)
- God Ta'lab (Arabian mythology)
- God Wadd (Minaean mythology)
- God Yarikh (Canaanite mythology)

Turkic mythology

- God Ay Ata

Austronesian

- God Andriambahomanana (Malagasy mythology)
- God Avatea (Polynesian mythology)
- God Fati (Polynesian mythology)
- Goddess Hina (Polynesian mythology)
- Goddess Mahina (Polynesian mythology)
- God Marama (Polynesian mythology)

Australia

- God Bahloo (Australian Aboriginal mythology)
- God Kidili (Mandjindja mythology)
- God Ngalindi (Yolngu mythology)

Americas

Aztec mythology

- Goddess Coyolxauhqui
- Goddess Metzli
- God Tecciztecatl (see Metzli)

Cahuilla mythology

- Goddess Menily^[41]

Hopi mythology

- God Muuya

Incan mythology

- Goddess Mama Killa
- Goddess Ka-Ata-Killa

- God Coniraya

Inuit mythology

- God Alignak
- God Igaluk
- God Tarqiup Inua

Lakota mythology

- Goddess Hanwi

Maya mythology

- Goddess Awilix; Xbalanque was her mortal (male) incarnation
- Maya moon goddess

Muisca mythology

- Goddess Huitaca
- Goddess Chía

Pawnee mythology

- God Pah

Tupi Guarani mythology

- God Abaangui
- Goddess Arasy
- God/Goddess Jasy (gender depends on tribe)

Voodoo

- God Kalfu

See also

- Allah as a lunar deity
- Astrotheology
- List of solar deities
- Man in the Moon
- Moon idol
- Moon rabbit
- Nature worship
- Solar deity

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